

United Nations Association, East Bay Chapter to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations. Events have been planned in the city of Alameda, California and Jack London Square in Oakland, California.

At Jack London Square, there will be a Parade of Nations, a 60th Anniversary Ceremony, International Food Festival, Multi-Cultural Musical and Dance Performance as well as children's and family activities.

United Nations celebratory activities in Alameda will be held in Kofman Auditorium and will feature a participatory experience of song, dance and inspiration for Alameda's children, families and all who, as global citizens, dream of a better and united world. The event will be a springboard to think globally and act locally in the spirit of the United Nations.

The United Nations Association-East Bay Chapter describes membership in their organization as a personal investment in the world's future. Their members stay involved in some of the most important issues facing our world today.

We applaud these committed members as they plan and participate in the activities to celebrate the United Nations' 60th Anniversary in the East Bay. Their engagement and involvement to educate and involve the public in UN activities and their promotion of UN principles are exemplary.

HONORING MR. NORM SOOY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor Norm Sooy, this year's recipient of the Excellence in Customer Service Award given by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. This award is given to providers of great customer service for veterans. Moreover, it identifies individuals who go above and beyond the scope of their normal duties. For sixteen years, Norm has managed a tremendous caseload as Director of the Camden County Department of Veterans Affairs, and repeatedly volunteers his own time on nights and weekends in order to better serve Camden County veterans.

Norm Sooy is a pillar in my community, an esteemed colleague, and above all a close friend. New Jersey is blessed to have such a selfless and hard working champion for veterans. I offer my sincere gratitude to him for his dedication, as I am sure veterans across Camden County do as well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor during yesterday's rollcall votes on House Resolution 457, recognizing National Chemistry Week, and House Resolution 491, supporting National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both resolutions.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF SIMON WIESENTHAL

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 248, a resolution to honor the life and work of Simon Wiesenthal and reaffirm the commitment of Congress to fight against anti-Semitism and intolerance in all forms, in all forums, and in all nations.

On September 20, 2005, the world lost a true hero—a voice for those souls who could not speak and a witness against those criminals who sought to go unnoticed.

After surviving the Holocaust himself, Simon Wiesenthal devoted his life to seeking justice for the six million Jews who were systematically murdered at the hands of the Nazis, including 89 members of his family.

Through sheer perseverance and determination, he hunted those who committed the most heinous acts—helping capture and ultimately convict more than 1,000 war criminals, including Adolf Eichman. He found the killers who ruined his youth, exterminated his people and displayed their evils before the eyes of the world.

Simon Wiesenthal did not ask that the world never forget the Holocaust; he demanded it. And we, as leaders of the most powerful and just nation in the world, have an obligation to carry out Simon Wiesenthal's legacy.

We must continue to investigate and bring to justice perpetrators of the Holocaust, as well as those who have engaged in acts of genocide in Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia and the Sudan, to show the world that those guilty cannot hide in the shadows.

We must work to end anti-Semitism and intolerance in the United States to prevent the spread of hatred that has led to so much undue evil.

And we must educate our children about the Holocaust to ensure that future generations understand the evils that can befall humanity and appreciate the righteous figures who can emerge from it, like Simon Wiesenthal.

THE KEYCORP CAMPUS OF BROOKLYN, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the staff members of the KeyCorp Campus, located on Tiedeman Road in Brooklyn, Ohio, upon their recent designation as a certified Green Building by the U.S. Green Building Council, USGBC. KeyCorp is the first financial service institution in the Midwest to earn this prestigious certification.

KeyCorp has joined the ranks of premier corporations and manufacturers across the Nation that have invested their own resources to elevate the structural, operational and performance components of their facilities to the highest levels of environmental standards. The 2,000 plus staff at KeyCorp has worked dili-

gently within the USGBC's new rating system, the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Existing Buildings, LEED, to become an officially designated Green Building.

By adhering to LEED systems and standards, KeyCorp has restored their 750,000-square-foot technology and operations buildings and adjacent property to an environmentally sound haven for employees and surrounding flora and fauna. The campus was built on a brownfield site, which has been renewed with water-efficient, native landscaping. KeyCorp made the commitment to implement environmentally smart procedures which served as economically smart moves for the company. By installing low-mercury light bulbs, recycling paper and cardboard, greater usage of natural light, and using green-friendly housekeeping and maintenance products, the company is protecting their bottom line and protecting the environment as well.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the leadership and staff members of the KeyCorp Tiedeman Campus in Brooklyn, Ohio, whose united efforts in raising the entire Campus into the light of environmental restoration and protection has earned them the official designation as a Green Building. KeyCorp's unified mission has made a positive impact on our community and serves as a vital reminder and example of the ability of the human race to coexist in harmony with our natural world.

COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP OF KYRGYZ PRESIDENT BAKIYEV IN EFFORTS TO FIGHT TERRORISM

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues the important contribution Kyrgyz Republic President Kurmanbek Bakiyev is making in supporting United States and Coalition Forces in our mission to fight terrorism in Afghanistan.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has just concluded a visit with President Bakiyev in the Kyrgyz Republic's capitol of Bishkek. On October 11, 2005, Secretary Rice and President Bakiyev issued a "Joint Statement of the United States of America and the Kyrgyz Republic on the Presence of the U.S. Military in the Region." I ask that the full statement be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud President Bakiyev's leadership in making this courageous commitment to provide the United States and Coalition Forces access to the Manas air base. This agreement provides certainty at a time when there is great uncertainty in the region. This new U.S.-Kyrgyz agreement follows a statement released July 5, 2005, by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization comprised of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, requesting a timetable for U.S. troop withdrawal in the region due to the lessening of operations in Afghanistan. The U.S.-Kyrgyz agreement also comes at a critical time for our military presence in the region, in light of neighboring Uzbekistan's decision to deny the U.S. access to a key military base which has been used for

counterterrorism, military and humanitarian missions.

The United States has a very real and expanding interest in Central Asia. The United States looks forward to working closely with our partner The Kyrgyz Republic to successfully eliminate global terrorism and bring peace and stability to the region.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, October 11, 2005.

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC ON THE PRESENCE OF THE U.S. MILITARY IN THE REGION

Following is the text of a joint statement issued by the United States of America and the Kyrgyz Republic on the Presence of the U.S. Military in the Region.

Kyrgyzstan understands the need to resolve urgently the military and political situation in Afghanistan, to contain the sources of terrorism and to create peaceful conditions for the social, economic and democratic development of the country.

In this regard, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic recognizes the important contribution of the international anti-terrorist Coalition, located at the Ganci Airbase, in strengthening regional stability. The Kyrgyz side will continue to take part in these and other joint efforts of the international community to contend with modern-day challenges and threats to security.

We support the presence of Coalition Forces in the Kyrgyz Republic until the mission of fighting terrorism in Afghanistan is completed, a mission supported by the United Nations.

The governments of the United States and the Kyrgyz Republic express their readiness to review the transparency of investments made for the use of the Manas Airport and at the same time to discuss other organizational and technical questions.

Regarding its domestic policy, Kyrgyzstan intends to continue its orientation toward strengthening democratic principles and carrying out a decisive battle against corruption in order to create the necessary conditions for sustainable development.

ADAM ERELI,
Deputy Spokesman.

FREEDOM FOR ORLANDO ZAPATA
TAMAYO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Orlando Zapata Tamayo, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Zapata Tamayo is a member of the Alternative Republican Movement as well as a member of the National Civic Resistance Committee. Because of his belief in freedom and democracy, Mr. Zapata Tamayo has been a constant target of the tyrant's machinery of repression. According to Amnesty International, he was detained and harassed by the dictatorship's thugs on July 3, 2002 and October 28, 2002. In November 2002, after taking part in a workshop on human rights in the central Havana park, he and eight other dictatorship opponents were arrested again. He was also arrested and thrown into the totalitarian gulag in December 2002.

Mr. Zapata Tamayo, knowing full well the heinous repression that awaited him if he con-

tinued to advocate for freedom for the people of Cuba, never wavered in his convictions. Unfortunately, on May 20, 2003, he was arrested again for taking part in a hunger strike to demand the release of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet. According to Information Bridge Cuba-Miami, in a sham trial, Mr. Zapata Tamayo was sentenced to 3 years in the totalitarian gulag for the supposed crimes of "public disorder, disobedience and resisting authority."

Brave men and women like Mr. Zapata Tamayo represent the best of mankind. He and other pro-democracy activists languish in abhorrent dungeons, defy the dictator's machinery of repression and, despite every threat and obstacle, relentlessly demand liberty for the people of Cuba. Because of their unwavering dedication and the hard work and commitment of countless other patriots, Cuba will be free again.

Mr. Speaker, it is categorically unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, Mr. Zapata Tamayo languishes in a grotesque gulag because of his belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We cannot permit the brutal treatment by a demented and murderous tyrant of a man like Mr. Zapata Tamayo for simply supporting freedom for his people. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Orlando Zapata Tamayo and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2360,
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2006

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the 2006 homeland security spending plan is something we must enact to sustain our ongoing efforts to protect the American people from harm. For that reason, I will support it. However, I have strong reservations with the bill.

First, the Republican majority has attached a plan to fundamentally reorganize the Department of Homeland Security to this must-pass bill—effectively forfeiting the oversight responsibility of the Congress. They are willingly making these sweeping changes, despite the fact that no meaningful hearings, discussions, or analyses have taken place on this proposal.

My colleagues, there are many lessons to be learned from Hurricane Katrina that ought to be incorporated into any restructuring plan of our Department of Homeland Security. Yet, the Republican majority has not only failed to undertake a full investigation of what went wrong in the Gulf Region, but it is now denying Congress the opportunity to appropriately study or amend Secretary Chertoffs proposed changes—which were submitted one month prior to the hurricane. This is wrong, and denies us the opportunity to learn from the mistakes of the last few months so that we might do better in the future.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, while this bill represents an attempt to make up for some of the funding shortfalls in the President's fiscal year 2006 homeland security budget—allocating

\$1.3 billion more for homeland security efforts this year than proposed by the Administration—it still does not adequately fund essential security initiatives that are needed to protect our citizens.

Specifically, the measure cuts by \$60 million funding for Firefighter Grants. It also fails to provide the level of funding needed to fully protect our Nation's ports which, according to the Coast Guard, will cost \$4.8 billion.

Our constituents are depending on us to keep them safe from harm and the nation free from terror. This bill fails to live up to our promise—and this Administration's promise—to provide real leadership in the face of real threats.

Mr. Speaker, I will reluctantly vote for this measure because it would be irresponsible to cut off funding for our homeland security efforts altogether. But, from my seat on the Budget Committee, I will continue to work to ensure that Congress lives up to its responsibility to provide strong leadership and to meet the Nation's security needs.

IN HONOR OF THE 2ND ANNUAL
RAMADAN IFTAR DINNER IN
CLEVELAND, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 2nd Annual Ramadan Iftar Dinner, hosted once again by the Cleveland Office of the Ohio Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). This joyous celebration reflects the significance of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, a sacred event reflecting the core values of the Islamic religion: a steadfast devotion to faith, peace, family and heritage.

Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of the religion of Islam and one of the central forms of Islamic worship. Throughout the entire ninth month of the Islamic Calendar year, Muslims show their devotion to God by fasting daily from daybreak until sundown. The sacred month of Ramadan is a time of giving, gratitude to God and sacrifice, which serves to unify Muslims around the world with a great sense of connection to all humanity.

Muslim Americans comprise a significant number of citizens in Greater Cleveland and across America. Moreover, the Muslim community greatly enriches the diverse fabric of our culture. Muslim Americans contribute immensely within all aspects of society, including premier achievements in science, medicine, business, religion, government service, education and art. The leaders and members of the Cleveland Office of the Ohio Chapter of CAIR remain focused on their vital mission: to enhance understanding of Islam, protect civil liberties and establish community coalitions to promote justice and mutual respect.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of American Muslims of Greater Cleveland and Muslims around the world. We also stand in tribute to the leaders and members of CAIR, for celebrating the sacred month of Ramadan with our community, at the 2nd Annual Ramadan Iftar Dinner. This interfaith gathering is reflective of the freedoms of our democratic society and underscores a deep and abiding honor and respect